



September 29, 2016

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NUMBER 235

Purpose - To update PA NRCS Planning Guidance and to release Priority Resource Concern Map Template and associated documents.

Effective Date - This notice is effective upon receipt. All guidance provided in this document must be implemented beginning October 1, 2016.

Explanation of Changes -

Pennsylvania NRCS Conservation Planning Guidance - The guidance, located in Section III of the PA eFOTG, has been updated to reflect changes to national and state planning requirements. The majority of the changes originate in revisions to the map requirements identified in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. Pennsylvania is also requiring that a Priority Resource Concern Map and a Land Capability Class Map be provided to every customer, with a copy retained in the NRCS case file, as part of the plan development process. Finally, the revised Conservation Planning Guidance document identifies the need for RUSLE2 documentation for all Pasture and Crop fields as required by national guidance.

Priority Resource Concern Map - The new map identifies specific resource concerns that are present in the planning area and are of particular importance to the Pennsylvania resource base. The resources identified on the map, as well as alternatives that can improve the identified resource concern(s), should be presented and explained to the client during the initial field visit. The purpose is to support the discussions with the landowner and ensure no topics regarding priority resources or the objectives of the plan are forgotten or overlooked. The document is not part of the customer's conservation plan. However, a copy of this map will be retained in the office file. All priority resource concerns present in the planning area will be identified by checking the box next to the existing priority resource concern and, as appropriate, by showing the resource concern on the map.

Access Instructions. The official version of the FOTG is what appears in Pennsylvania's eFOTG.

The *Pennsylvania NRCS Planning Guidance* document can be accessed in the PA FOTG, Section III, Planning & Environmental Compliance Information folder, Planning Guidance subfolder.

The *Priority Resource Map Template*, *Priority Resource Concern Use Instructions*, *Priority Resource Concern Guidance* document be found in the PA FOTG, Section III, Planning and Environmental Compliance Information folder, Planning Guidance subfolder.



United States Department of Agriculture

The entire Pennsylvania FOTG can be accessed at the following website:

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx

You can access the Section III Table of Contents directly at the following web address:

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=12477>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Coleman".

Denise Coleman
State Conservationist